

# WEDNESDAY SPECIAL

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## MAILS TO FRONT LOADED WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER

### Soldiers in Trenches Will Celebrate "Peace On Earth" During Holidays

By Philip Kirby.  
(United Press staff correspondent.)  
With the French Army at the front, via Paris, Dec. 21.—The shrill whistle of bullets overhead and the roar of artillery in the distance effectively dissipate all the Christmas spirit in the first line trenches, or the western battle front.

It is easy to understand why men do not wish to observe the festival of "peace on earth, good will to men." "It would only make them more homesick," an officer told me today. "This is a war to the death. We are not like the armies of old which proclaimed an armistice for Christmas. It is necessary to forget the home festival and reserve the celebration until victory comes to us."

Yet, there'll be Christmas in the trenches, for the mails for months have been jammed with presents for the men. These have been piled in bomb proofs, and will not be opened, by common consent, until Christmas morning. Then an officer in each section will play Santa Claus and distribute them.

Back of the lines, though, it seems like Christmas back home, though its a Christmas season with a tug at the heart strings. Many churches behind the trenches, though partly in ruins, are decorating with flags, evergreen, holly and mistletoe.

At midnight on Christmas eve, the solitary figure of Cardinal Luçon will enter the Rheims cathedral and pray for the success of the French arms and for the rest of the souls of the men who have fallen in the defense of their country. Regularly twice a week, he prays in a hole in the untouched wing of the ruined church; but he cannot celebrate mass inside the cathedral so completely wrecked is it.

Solemn high mass will be sung Christmas eve and several other services will be held Christmas day in the sacristy of the Soissons cathedral. There a tiny light is burning continuously before the small altar.

"Although the enemy, for no reason, destroyed the outer shell of the House of God, this light, typifying eternal faith in the heart, burns forever," said the priest in charge.

At Epernay and Cateau Thierry, close to the front, Christmas shopping goes on as in peace times—only there are many more old women, with perhaps less money than before, who buy the gifts.

In addition to appropriate gifts for the men in the trenches, the shops display things suitable for the home folks. There are toys, sweet meats, sewing bags, toilet sets, and inexpensive jewelry.

Back in the trenches, the men are not depressed. They are remarkably comfortable in their new war dugouts and bomb proofs despite cold and snow. Rats and vermin have been largely eliminated.

The civilian is surprised at the seeming sanctity of the first line. It is impossible to believe that the enemy is only a few yards distant. Of course, men are there, but they are out of sight in the dugouts. The only visible sign of alertness is that sentinels are concealed in advance posts ready to give the alarm.

The men are in fine physical condition, and the sickness rate is less than in peace times. Seventeen months of war seemingly has been only so much physical training.

The Christmas spirit isn't what American would know as Christmas spirit—but in its place is a confidence in victory, a firm belief that when the time of "peace on earth, good will to men" again rolls around, the Germans will be broken, and French families will be reunited.

ready and royal success in the English-speaking cities of the world.

The public seems to realize all that Forbes-Robertson's farewell means. As he goes playgoers have seemed with one accord to feel the loss of his leaving-taking will create. The abilities Forbes-Robertson brought to the theatre, the achievements with which he filled it, the devotion which he gave to it, the historic standard that he set for it; these are the things that come to mind with the farewell appearance of the foremost living actor.

### "Too Many Clothes For Our Children," Says Official

(United Press correspondence.)

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Childhood of today is being buried under the same avalanche of greed for style and clothes that is swamping the grown-ups, according to Mrs. Jane Barnard, juvenile probation officer at the court of domestic relations. Mrs. Barnard drew on Tennyson to put it this way:

"Cursed be the social wants that sin against the strength of youth."

"Nowadays," said Mrs. Barnard, "children are dressed for school as they are dressed only for parties. 'Sunday-go-to-meetin'' clothes are unknown. Every day is Sunday in children's clothing. Children are hoisted by their playmates if they wear clothing like their parents wore, and one of childhood's greatest tragedies in the contempt their playmates hold for them if they are not dressed 'in style.' It is no better at Sunday school. Children not dressed right up to the minute are not only hoisted by their school mates, but are received in a patronizing supercilious manner by the adults. This is the reason so many men come to me and say they cannot support their families."

### WOULD CUT THEM OUT

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 21.—Because Friday night dances leave them in no shape to take Saturday examinations, Case students have asked the faculty to eliminate them—that is, the tests.



FORBES-ROBERTSON'S FAREWELL

In the public eye, actors, like blessings, brighten as they take their flight. Already Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, who appears at the Grand theatre Friday, December 24, has said farewell to the London, and now he is taking leave of the American theatre. For 30 years he has been one of the most eminent actors in England; for 10 years he has been most prominent among the foremost actors of the English-speaking stage.

Forbes-Robertson has paid many visits to America. America has generously received him. Thirty years ago he came to this country as leading man for Mary Anderson. Since then he has been seen here in many of his most famous roles. His farewell in New York crowded the theatre for 100 nights. His last night in New York rivalled his last night in London. It is given to a few players to find such

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do not allow your digestive organs to get out of order. Many ills start from the stomach. Indigestion and biliousness quickly result in headache, nervousness, loss of sleep and other weakening ailments.

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Beecham's Pills banish a sallow skin and bring a healthy tint to the cheeks. Whenever you feel run-down, or are troubled with indigestion or biliousness, these famous pills

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## AMERICAN MADE FIRST SUBMARINE IN 1777, WAS ONE-MAN BOAT

The submarine is almost universally looked upon as of modern invention, which in its present form, it is. The idea, however, is far from being new. The following story of the first submarine is told in "Great Events in the History of North and South America," a work compiled by Charles A. Goodrich and published in 1851:

**The Way It Was Made.**  
During the year 1777, David Bushnell, a native of Connecticut, made several attempts to blow up the ships of the enemy, by means of torpedoes. This mode of warfare had employed his thoughts during his collegiate course, so that on graduating in 1775, his plans were in a good degree matured. An account of some of his early plans he gave to the world himself. The following is a description of his celebrated torpedo: "It bore a resemblance to two upper torpedoes of equal size, placed in contact, having at that end which represents the head of the animal, a fluke or opening sufficiently capacious to contain the operator, and air to support him thirty minutes. At the bottom, opposite to the entrance, was placed a quantity of lead for ballast. The operator sat upright, and held on for rowing forward or backward, and was furnished with a rudder for steering. An aperture at the bottom with its valves admitted water for the purpose of descending and two brass forcing pumps served to eject the water within, when necessary for ascending. The vessel was made completely water-tight, furnished with glass windows for the admission of light, with ventilators and air-pipes, and was so ballasted with lead fixed on the bottom as to render it solid, and obviate all danger of over-setting. Behind the sub-marine vessel was a place above the rudder for carrying a large powder magazine; this was made of two pieces of oak timber, large enough, when hollowed out, to contain one hundred and fifty pounds of powder, with the apparatus used for firing it, and was secured in its place by a screw turned by the operator. It was lighter than water, so that he might rise against the object to which it was intended to be fastened."

**Its First Try-Out.**  
Within the magazine was an apparatus constructed to run any proposed period under twelve hours; when it had run out its time, it unpinioned a strong lock, resembling a gun-lock, which gave fire to the powder. This apparatus was so pinioned, that it could not possibly move, until, by casting off the magazine from the vessel, it was set in motion. The skillful operator could swim so low on the surface of the water, as to approach very near the skin in the night, without fear of being discovered, and might, if he chose, approach the stem or stern above water, with very little danger. He could sink very quickly, keep at any necessary depth, and row a great distance in any direction he desired, without coming to the surface. When he rose to the top, he could soon obtain a fresh supply of air, and if necessary, descend again and pursue his course."

With a torpedo of the above construction, Bushnell made an experiment on the Eagle, a sixty-gun ship, then lying in the harbor of New York, and under command of Lord Howe. A sergeant of one of the Connecticut regiments conducted the operation. General Putnam, standing on the wharf was a witness to the proceeding.

**The Torpedo Worked.**  
The sergeant, having under cover of night proceeded to the ship, attempted to fasten the torpedo to her bottom by means of a screw. But in this he failed, striking, as he supposed, a bar or bolt of iron, which resisted the screw. In attempting to move to another place, he passed from under the ship and soon rose to the surface. By this time, daylight and so far advanced as to make any further experiments hazardous. He therefore concluded to return to New York. On passing Governor's Island, supposing himself discovered by the British stationed there, he cast off his magazine, and proceeded without it. The internal apparatus was set to run one hour; at the expiration of which, it blew up, in a tremendous explosion, throwing a vast column of water to a great height, to the no small wonder of the enemy.

This experiment was followed in the course of the year by an attempt from a whalingboat against the Frigate Cerberus, off New London. The expedition in this case was to draw a machine, loaded with powder, against her side by means of a line, to be exploded by a run lock. But failing to attach itself as intended, against the frigate, it became attached to a schooner, at anchor astern of the frigate, which, on exploding, it demolished.

**Commodore Tells of It's Work.**  
In a letter addressed to Sir Peter Parker, by Commodore Simmons, at the time of the explosion on board the Cerberus, he gave an account of this singular disaster. Being at anchor to the westward of the town with a schooner which he had taken, about eleven o'clock in the evening he discovered a line towing astern from the bows. He believed some person had been veered away by it, and immediately began to haul in. A sailor belonging to the schooner taking it for a fishing line, laid hold of it, and drew it in about fifteen fathoms. It was buoyed up by small pieces tied to it at regular distances. At the end of the rope a machine was fastened, too heavy for one man to pull up, for it exceeded one hundred pounds in weight. The other people of the schooner coming to his assistance, they drew it upon the deck. While the men, to gratify their curiosity, were examining the machine, it exploded, blew the vessel into pieces and set her on fire. Three men were killed, and a fourth blown into the water, very much injured. On subsequent examination, the other part of the line was discovered buoyed up in the same manner; this the commodore ordered to be instantly cut away, for fear (as he termed it) of hauling up another of the "infernals!"

The above mode of warfare cannot but be considered too shocking and inhuman to be encouraged by civilized

nations, and we do not regret that the experiment of Bushnell, and the more recent experiments of Fulton, failed. But it is said that the failure of his efforts cast a deep and permanent gloom over the mind of Bushnell.

### SEATTLE'S DEATH RATE LOW.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 21.—Seattle has broken its own low death rate record, according to Health Commissioner McBride, who is making ready his annual report for 1915.

The healthiest spot in the United States for several years, the commissioner says the death rate for the current year will fall below 8.0 per thousand. Last year it established the record of 8.1 per cent.

### "AVENGING CONSCIENCE"

That "Avenging Conscience," the D. W. Griffith wonder picture which opened at the Oregon theatre last night is the most costly photo-play which has ever been seen in Salem, is declared by Manager Danielson.

"Avenging Conscience" is declared by Mr. Griffith to be a greater picture than "The Birth of a Nation," Griffith says: "It is my supreme achievement and is two years ahead of the art of motion picture photography."

Not only is there in the cast of "Avenging Conscience" every star appearing in "The Birth of a Nation," but Miss Zanele Sweet will be seen in addition.

This remarkable photo-play is a picture of Edgar Allan Poe's books and poems, particularly "The Telltale Heart" and "Annabel Lee."

Not only did "Avenging Conscience" break attendance records at the Heilig theatre, Portland, where it ran a full week, but at the Melbourne theatre, Seattle, where larger crowds saw it than witnessed "The Birth of a Nation." At the Strand theatre, New York, it ran for weeks, at prices ranging from \$2 down. Baltimore paid \$150 to see it, Chicago and many other eastern cities the same sum.

The state rights are owned by Orton E. Goodwin and Sol Baum, who are asserted to have paid a tremendous price for the picture.

The cast of stars includes: Henry B. Walthall, Blanche Sweet, Mae Marsh, Ralph Lewis, Robert Harron, Josephine Crowell, George Siegman and Spotiwoode Aitken.

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## Parents Badly Burned Their Son Is Cremated

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 20.—W. A. Glendon, an engineer for the Seattle port commission and his wife, are suffering today from frightful burns and mourning the death of their 3 year old son, Martin, who was cremated in his bed Sunday evening while the parents fought bravely but unsuccessfully to save him from the fire which destroyed their home.

The fire started from an overheated stove after the child had been sent to bed Sunday evening. Both parents attempted to beat out the flames but failed. They were unaware that the fire had reached the upper portion of the house, but when they attempted to get their child they were driven back by the heat. Several times they tried unsuccessfully to get through the wall of flame. The house stood in a thickly populated district and a storm of protest was raised because of the absence of fire plugs near enough to the house to be of material use.

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